knows, we recognise the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, in spite of that I would like to say that we do not consult and we do not decide our foreign policy in consultation with any foreign organisation or Government, however friendly. We decide our foreign policy on our own perceptions and on understanding of our own interest. I would like to say also that the statement attributed to the Chairman, Mr. Arafat, as quoted by the hon. Member, has not come to my notice at all. What has come to my notice. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G.G.SWELL:*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have not permitted you. Whatever Mr. G.G. Swell says, will not go on record.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Now, as per the report which I have got, Mr. Arafat said, "this is a matter within the sovereignty of India and I have no comments to offer."

Indian citizens in foreign jails

*423. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:†
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian citizens are in different jails in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the number of Indians who have been imprisoned abroad for visa violations and on criminal charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, if it is a Starred Question and if there is no reply, then the significance of the Starred Question is lost. You will appreciate this, Sir, because ten days' notice has been given and if the information is not collected in ten days with modern communication system, then what do I ask unless he tells me the position of my first question; Anyhow, do you want to protect me on this, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can I do?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I want your reaction on this.

Normally, the External Affairs Ministry is expected to know if there are Indian citizens in jails in any foreign country.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: May I submit, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, we have not got ten days' notice and this is a problem that happens.*(Interruptions.)* There are more than 100 countries. There are more things to it which I will submit when he completes his question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, I must protect him. I told him, how can I protect him? How can I protect him if the Minister does not answer? Normally, a person expects that the Government of India, the External Affairs Ministry, should know where Indian citizens in foreign countries are jailed. If you do not have that information, I cannot help.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I will clarify the position as soon as he completes the supplementary.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Why don't you clarify first? Then I will ask my supplementary.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The position is as follows. There is no way in which we can have complete information.

MR CHAIRMAN: Give him whatever information you have got.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We can give him tentative information. Definitely, whatever information I have, I will give him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not to the House? *(Interruptions.)*

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, what the Member wants is the total number of Indians who have been imprisoned abroad for visa violation or on criminal charges. To get the specific charges whether they are visa violations or other violations, it would take an enormous amount of time and we cannot get them. Secondly, there is no way in which we can get the information because, under Article 36(b) of the Vienna Convention, the receiving Government or the Government of the country in which the person is imprisoned will not give information to the Mission unless the man who is jailed or imprisoned requests that the Mission be

*Not recorded.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

informed. Several times, our people do not bother to make the request. Or, in many cases, they say, "Please do not inform the Mission." In this way, it becomes very difficult and whatever information we get is just guesstimate and accurate information, for this reason, cannot be provided.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Mr. Chariman, Sir, based on whatever information the hon. Minister has given, I will make my first supplementary. From Gulf countries we are receiving reports every day that recruiting agencies are taking labourers there and once their visas expire, they are in great difficulties; sometimes, even before their visas expire, they are put in jail for various reasons. They are all innocent people who go there for their livelihood. They are just jailed. I would like to know what steps the Governement is taking to stop this menace for the poor workers who go to Gulf countries.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Whenever a person is jailed and it comes to our notice, our men go to the jail and see that the person is treated fairly in jail; that the person is released if no offence is there; and that the trial is fair and is expedited, if *prima facie* there is an offence. We are doing quite a good deal of help. We will do further to help our people there. If questions are asked, I will reply to them.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I think the replies are a little casual. But still, I want to give the benefit to the Minister. It seems he does not want to disclose many things. Anyway, with neighbouring countries, we have large boundary lines. A number of innocent and illiterate people on the borders, because the borders are not very difficult to cross, just cross the boundary by mistake. And even they are put in jail for years together. What efforts is the Government or the Ministry taking for such cases? What is the Government or the Minister planning to give any special instruction to our Missions abroad on what help they can provide to the innocent people? Otherwise, what is the importance of having Missions? They are not there only to make fun at the cost of the country. They should help innocent and illiterate people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given the answer.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: In cases of minor infractions and infringements, such as the hon. Member has mentioned, we can take up the matter with the Government of the country concerned for their release. In many, many cases, they are actually released. Where it is crossing of maritime borders, as it happened in Bangladesh and othere countries and crossing of land borders, we have asked the countries concerned to release the fishermen and other people and they are released because of our intervention.

श्री राम नरेश यादव: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न "क" के उत्तर में यह स्वीकार किया है कि विदेशों के विभिन्न कारावासों में भारतीय नागरिक बंद हैं और "ख" और "ग" के उत्तर में माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह कहा है कि सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है, जो सदन की मेज पर रख दी जाएगी। महोदय, मैं ऐसा समझता हूं कि कुछ देशों के संबंध में तो माननीय मंत्री जी को अवश्य जानकारी होगी क्योंकि पाकिस्तान है और मैं ऐसा समझता हूं कि क्यूबा में जो खाड़ी युद्ध चल रहा था उसमें भी बहुत से हमारे भारतीय नागरिक इराकी जेलों में बंद हैं। अभी 12 मार्च, 1992 को इस वर्ष के जो सरकार के आंकड़े हैं, जो बताए हैं, उसके आधार पर 1,031 भारतीय नागरिक पाकिस्तानी जेल में बंद हैं। साथ ही साथ 29 अक्टूबर, 1991 का जो इंडियन एक्सप्रेस है उसने लिखा है कि —

"About 15 Indians are missing from Kuwait and are reported to have been taken as hostages by Iraqi forces when they abandoned Kuwait at the end of the 44-day Gulf war."

उन दोनों कंट्रीज में, 1031 तो वहां पर हैं पाकिस्तान में और फिर कुवैत में भी उस समय जो भारतीय नागरिक थे, बहुत से तो आ गए लेकिन जो रह गए थे, वे ईराकी जेलों में बंद हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह बात सही है? अगर सही है तो उनको वापस लाने के लिए भारत सरकार ने अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है और अगर नहीं की है तो क्यों नहीं की है?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, we have taken up these cases that the hon. Member has mentioned with the concerned Governments, both of Pakistan and Iraq, and now in view of the question put by the hon. Member we will ask that it is to be taken up again and we will ask our heads of missions

themselves, not Junior officers, to actually go and visit those particular jails where a substantial number is there.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Sir, it is a fact that those who go abroad, most of them, are working hard and giving us the most precious foreign exchange. In spite of our opposition to the recent Budget, one positive feature of the Budget is that something has been provided for those who are earning for our country working abroad. But, unfortunately, the Indian missions abroad, which should take care of the interests of Indians working abroad, are doing precious little for the interests of the Indians abroad. Recently, I myself had a personal experience of Indian nationals working abroad explaining their difficulties. I understand that there is a Consular Manual according to which the Indian missions are expected to extend help to Indians abroad. I also understand that the provisions of the Consular Manual are observed in violation by most of the Indian missions. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps are being taken by the Government to see that the provisions of the Consular Manual are adhered to. This is my specific question. Now, there is no monitoring, no feedback. Even the Minister admits that there is no information. What sort of people are there? This is a very unfortunate situation.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, as a rule, the behaviour and actions taken by our missions in support of our people in the Gulf are exemplary—this was, as a rule, exemplary—and this I myself had personally experienced when I visited the area during the Gulf war. A tremendous number of people were dealt with and they were dealt with rather successfully by and large. Now, if there is any specific case in which violation is there and of which the Member is not satisfied, I will be grateful to him if he brings it to my notice and I will take action on that. Quite apart from this, we shall also, as from now, ask our missions to give a quarterly report every three months on all consular services, namely, the number of visas given, passports, including the position of our people settled there or working in those particular countries and also the people in jails. We will do it quarterly from now.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you can kindly permit me, even the agents are violating the contracts. They are offering 500 dinars and once the workers are taken they are not offered this. There are thousands of such cases.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is about those in jails.

SHRI M.A. BABY: The Minister is misleading the House. With due respect to the Minister, there are experiences where I know that these employees are forced to live in sub-human conditions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is very relevant, but doesn't arise out of this.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government of India is aware that the Indian nationals were smuggled in air-tight containers recently from India to a foreign country in Europe.

Again, the Indian refugees were smuggled in air-tight containers risking their own lives to Great Britain and they were arrested there. The Minister has just stated that he would ask the Indian missions to help our people. For example, the Singapore Government has complained against the Indian mission there that Indians violated the visa rules and they have been arrested and given third degree punishment.

Even though the Singapore Government brought this to the notice of our Mission at Singapore, they have not taken any steps to get those Indians arrested and deported to India. I would like to know whether the Government will take further action in giving instructions to at least countries like Singapore where the tamilians are living, the Indians are living, more in number to take immediate action as soon as they receive reports from the newspapers about our Indians arrested.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I do not know the details of this specific case. I shall be grateful if he gives me the details so that I can take action, but I can say ...*(interruptions)*... I might

have, however, said this generally, Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking about Singapore where the Tamilians are not treatred properly...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: If he gives me the specific details, I will look into it and I will reply to the Member, but I would like to say generally that often there is an illegal immigration from our country; sometimes it happens for economic reasons basically and those who do not want our Mission to intervene would like to deal with it in their own manner. They do not want our Mission to intervene. I am not saying this is the case that the hon. Member is mentioning, but I am saying...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is talking about Singapore. The main question is about Singapore.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, if he gives us the details, we shall look into it.

Help sought from Private Sector to achieve 5.6 per cent increase in G.D.P.

*424. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in 'Economic Times' dated the 9th March, 1992 captioned "Private Sector's help sought for 5.6 per cent increase in GDP"; and

(b) What is the approximate expectation of external funding from private sector in real terms to achieve the objective of 5.6 per cent increase in GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to achieve the objective of 5.6 per cent annual growth in G.D.P. during the Eighth Plan an investment of Rs. 792,000 crores at 1991-92 prices will have to be made. In addition there will be a current outlay of Rs. 58,000 crores in the public sector. Out of the total investment of Rs. 792,000 crores an estimated amount of Rs. 450,000 crores will be in the private sector comprising of the private corporate sector and the household sector. The total external funding in the Eighth Plan for both public and private sectors will be Rs. 49,000 crores. Of this Rs. 15,300 crores will go to private sector.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sir, my question emanates from a statement which appeared in the *Economic Times* and was given by Shri Pranab Mukharjee, Deputy Chairman of the planning Commission. The figures which appeared in the statement are different from those given by the hon. Minister in his statement. However, the external funding is said to be Rs. 49,000 crores. In view of the recent liberalisation policies and the structural adjustment scheme, the planning Commission may be hoping that they will get more external funding to finance the plan, but, sir, recently, starting from January onwards, a number of trade delegations from abroad are coming to India to study the market position here. For example, the Japanese came, the Germans came. The United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan and other countries also sent their trade delegations, but having been not at all satisfied with the existing liberalisation schemes and other—it appeared in the press, in some sections of the media also—these trade delegations are making further demands, asking for more concessions...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to your question.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sir, I am coming to the question. This is the question itself. Not satisfied with the liberalisation schemes, they are demanding more concessions. For example, the Japanese asked for the removal of regulations on foreign currency remittances of profits. Other countries are also making demands like removal of compulsory export requirments, restriction on capital goods import and further relaxation on the import licence. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the attitude of the Government is with regard to these demands for further concessions. Unless